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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 12, 1998

Contact: D. Scott Samuels, assistant professor of biology, (406) 243-6145.

UM STUDENT AWARDED AT REGIONAL MICROBIOLOGY CONFERENCE

MISSOULA--

Christian Eggers, a molecular biology student at The University of Montana-Missoula, won an award for best graduate student poster presentation during the annual meeting of the Northwest Branch of the American Society for Microbiology in Post Falls, Idaho, Sept. 17-19.

Eggers' presentation was titled "Characterization of a Phage of *Borrelia burgdorferi*." *Borrelia burgdorferi* is the bacterium that causes Lyme disease, and Eggers' poster described a phage -- or virus -- that infects the bacterium. His presentation topped at least 15 others submitted by graduate students from across the Northwest.

Eggers, a 1991 graduate of Rampart High School, has a microbiology degree from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. He is the son of Howard and Noel Eggers of Colorado Springs, Colo. He works in the UM laboratory of Assistant Professor D. Scott Samuels, who is studying how *Borrelia burgdorferi* grows, hoping to find improved or novel cures for Lyme disease.

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CBS
Local, The (Colorado Springs) Gazette
Chrisbio.rl